

# The Gospel - Matthew 5

Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.

# Reconciliation

**RECONCILIATION**

# Franciscan Peacemaking

## The Wolf of Gubbio

*Omnibus - Wolf of Gubbio* - page 1348 - 1351

- *“But I am going to where the wolf lives”*
- *“I want to make peace between you and them”*
- *“Are you willing to make and keep this peace pact?”*
- *“Give me a pledge so I can believe”*

# What is Conflict?

**"We find that it's basic property is a state of opposition. People become locked in conflict as a result of opposing goals, intentions, efforts, desires, interests, needs, values, beliefs, emotions and identities"**

**"We struggle when we cannot have something we want. We struggle when we are forced to accept something we do not want. We struggle to pull towards us those things we desire and we struggle to push away from us those things that repulse us...identify the push and pull in your conflict"**

**"Look for 'if I win, you lose scenarios', as they are a common symptom of existing or looming conflict"**

# What is Conflict?

In your assessment (of yourself or as a mediator), look for opposing intentions regarding:

1 - What you want to have

2 - What you want to do

3 - Who you want to be

*\* Taming the Wolf (p31 - 32)*

# What Causes Conflict

“In the legend, the wolf must hunt **(do)** in order to procure food **(have)** in order to survive **(be)**. The townspeople of Gubbio want to travel safely **(do)**, own livestock **(have)**, and survive **(be)**, by avoiding the wolf.”

“...The survival of each appears to depend on the non-survival of the other”

*Take a minute and think about a recent conflict you have been involved in. Was it a push or pull for you? Was it a “do”, a “have” or a “be” situation.*

*\* Taming the Wolf (p32)*

# What Causes Conflict

## What you want to have

- *“**Money**, which is used as a medium of exchange, translates into power to possess a broad range of goods we need or want. When money becomes the focus of dispute, negative emotions from previous bad experiences almost always cloud the situation.”*
- ***Scarcity** triggers conflict over which party will have their needs met and which party will go without.*
- ***Expectations** - how we imagine the future - become important as our continued survival depends on our ability to accurately predict the possessions or resources we will have in the future.*
- ***Owning people** - the misguided sense that we own another person - a sense of entitlement - dominance and control*

\* *Taming the Wolf (p32 - 36)*

# What Causes Conflict

## What you want to do

- *“Conflict arises over opposing views of what we are permitted to do.”*
- *“Conflict surfaces when one side has an intention to pursue a goal . while the other side is equally determined to **prevent the realization of that goal**”*
- *“Norms that regulate permissible behavior - what one may do - frequently cause conflict.*
- *“Differences arise over values that determine what constitutes approved behavior or **sanctioned behavior**”*

\* Taming the Wolf (p37 - 38)

# What Causes Conflict

## What you want to be (part 1)

- **“Identity based conflict** concerns outward expression of who we are, such as our position or title, and it concerns inner expressions of core identity, such as faith”. “Positions with status attached often become the subject of disputes”
- **“The identity we assume as members of a group** can generate conflict (us versus them). ex: ethnic conflict or gangs
- **“Historically, religious identity has fomented conflict:** members of one religion target members of another. Such religious conflict does not usually concern spiritual matters, but rather results in religion being co-opted for other purposes, like political power” ex: Northern Ireland
- **“Issues regarding who should be considered among the faithful** set up conflict”
- **“Racial prejudice** - a person is granted less right to be as a result of an isolated physical property”

\* *Taming the Wolf* (p38 - 39)

# What Causes Conflict

## What you want to be (part 2)

- **“Disrespect** - A show of disrespect challenges our right to be who we are without being dishonored or disparaged. Disrespect plays a part in almost all conflict”
- **“The need to be right** - Being right becomes equated with continued survival. When someone makes you wrong it is common to experience a surprising overreaction to the criticism. We experience a vague but nagging sense that our survival is threatened.”
- Take a minute and think about who wins when you have “I win, you lose” conflict...even if you are right.

\* *Taming the Wolf* (p41 - 42)

# What Causes Conflict Interdependence

- *“Being, doing and having are interdependent. ”*
- *“Typically, we act (to do) in order to own (to have) things that support our identity (to be)”*
- *“It is important to analyze the relative importance of be/do/have”*
- *“Combine and balance the factors of be/do/have to arrive at a solution”*
- *“If the process hangs up, it may signal too much importance has been given to one factor at the exclusion of the others”*

\* *Taming the Wolf (p42 - 43)*

# What Causes Conflict Feelings

- *“Understanding our feelings is just as important or more important. All stories include an emotional arc.”*
- *“Perhaps nowhere are feelings more important than in identity based conflict...we name our state of being with an emotion or feeling”*

\* *Taming the Wolf (p44)*

# Perceptions

- *Attribution Theory - people interpret the behavior of others by making assumptions regarding their motives.*
- *Dispositional Causes = Character, attitudes and intentions*
- *Situational Causes = Motivated by external circumstances.*
- *We tend to attribute the behavior of others to dispositional factors and our own behavior to situational factors. (Examples?)*
- *Stereotypes based on race, class, ethnicity, gender, age and religion contribute to false attribution.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (72)*

# Perceptions

- *To perceive reality clearly, we must recognize the subjective or emotional factors that color or distort our perceptions.*
- *Requires an open minded curiosity of the others story and a desire to assess our own bias.*
- *If each party clings to misperceptions, the process stops.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (72)*

# What Causes Conflict

## Spiritual Conflict

*“All conflict is a failure, to a greater or lesser degree, to live a life of unconditional love.*

*Conflicts arrive from a failure to infuse relationships within loving kindness. When love is diminished, inhibited, blocked or refused we tend to pull away and recede into ourselves. In the absence of a loving relationship we assume postures and positions that give rise to conflict. When there is a failure of compassion, we break away into isolation and build a world susceptible to conflict”*

*\* Taming the Wolf (p52)*

# Responses to Conflict

- *When we harden our heart, we objectify the other and fashion boundaries that establish separateness or otherness*
- *This results in a precipitous drop in affinity and caring. The other becomes an object.*
- *We also discover the opposite - times when we dissolve boundary and separateness. Solidity gives way to lightness of being, our hearts soften with love, we long to serve and uplift the other.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (67)*

# Small Group Discussion

*Share a conflict you have had or a time you acted as a mediator for others.*

*How did you perceive that experience?*

*How did others respond?*

*Looking at what we know about have/be/do, what would you change about your interaction?*

# Responses to Conflict

- **Competition** - *Primarily concerned with satisfying our own needs with little regard for the other party*
- **Avoidance** - *We abandon our needs and the needs of the other in an effort to circumvent a collision of interests*
- **Compromise** - *involves each party abandoning a portion of their interests while also satisfying a portion.*
- **Accommodation** - *Subservient and deferential. Banishing outward signs of opposition in attempts to appease or accommodate.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (60 - 66)*

# Responses to Conflict

- *Collaboration - Not based on “win - lose” or “divide the pie” thinking, but rather seeks to expand the pie through analysis of interests and creative exploration of ways to satisfy those interests”*
- *Collaboration is the best method - most of the time.*
- *Each response may be valid in different situations. (examples)*
- *Problems also arise when a person responds the same way to everything.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (60 - 66)*

# Responses to Conflict

## ("You must first become a peaceful person")

- *Divine Collaboration - Calls us to enter into a sacred relationship with the "other" who is created in the likeness of God.*
- *Not contingent on "the other's" willingness to collaborate.*
- *In seeing "the other" as a brother or a sister...we become mindful of our interdependent nature. They are no longer "the other".*
- *When we greet "the other" in this manner our presence often creates a desire in the other to collaborate*

\* *Taming the Wolf (67)*

# Responses to Conflict

- *When we have mastered our response to conflict, when we become versed in greeting each other in the spirit of the divine, our ability to successfully manage conflict broadens.*
- *We become aware of “the difference between being passive peace lovers and active peacemakers”.*

\* *Taming the Wolf (67)*

\* *Ian Morgan Cron*

# St Francis and the Sultan

THE SULTAN

# Small group Discussion

*How did St Francis' interaction with the Sultan differ from his interaction with the wolf and the people of Gubbio?*

*Was Francis successful?*

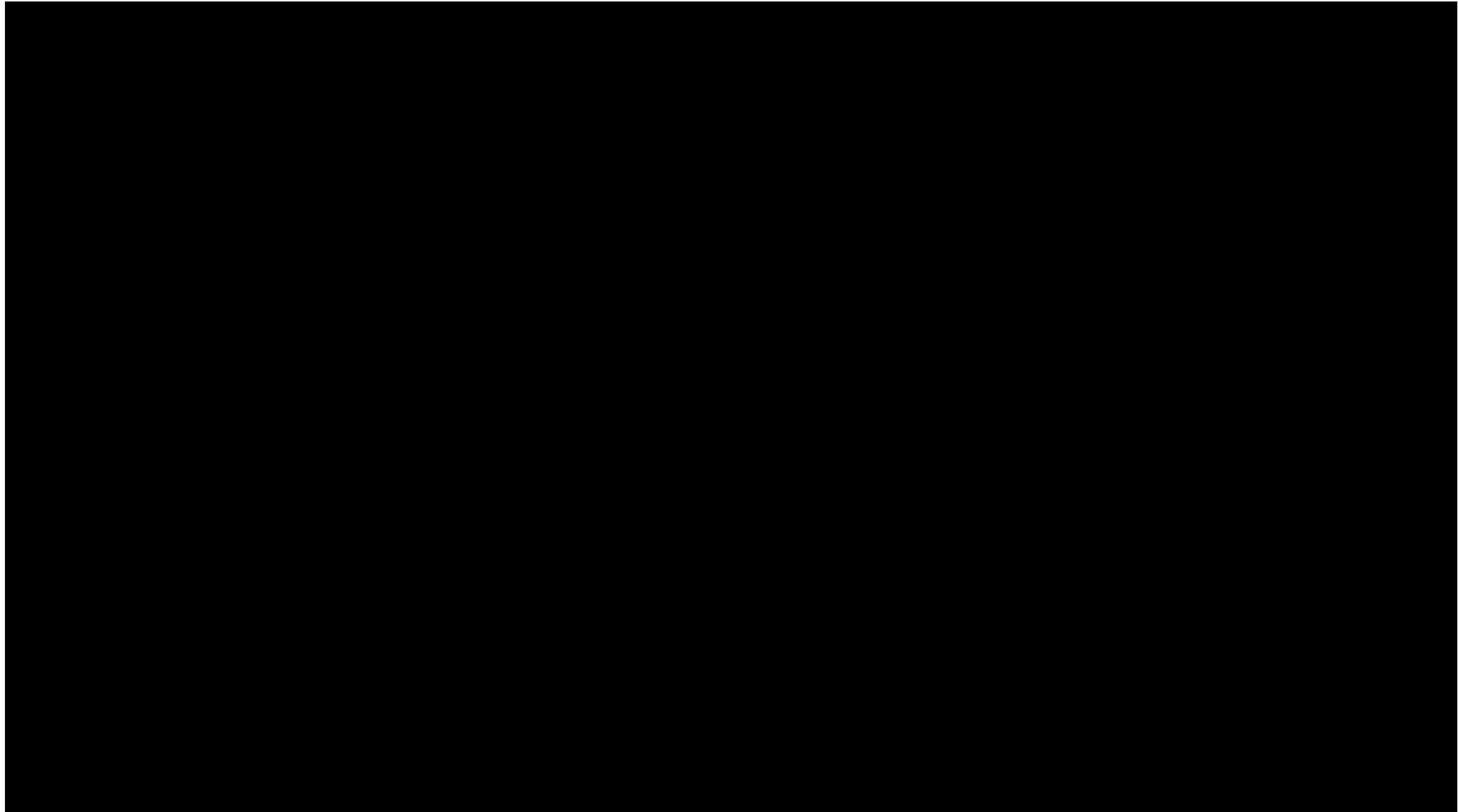
*How did identity impact their interaction?*

*What does that tell us about each of them?*

# Conflict and the Internet



# Franciscan Peacemaker



# Prayer of St Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
where there is injury, pardon,  
where there is doubt, faith,  
where there is despair, hope,  
where there is sadness, joy,  
where there is darkness, light.  
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.<sup>12</sup>*